



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. : 09/690,198  
Applicant : Collins *et al.*  
Filed : October 16, 2000  
TC/A.U. : 1617  
Examiner : Shahnam J. Sharareh

Confirmation No. 2250

Docket No. : 07959.105025  
Customer No. : 20786

Commissioner for Patents  
P. O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

#16/B  
RECEIVED  
SEP 23 2003  
TECH CENTER 1600/2900  
SEP 22 2003  
TECH CENTER 1600/2900

**AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION**

Sir:

In response to the Office Action of March 12, 2003, for which a response is due on September 12, 2003, with a three month extension of time, please amend the above-referenced application as follows. A Petition for a three month extension of time is enclosed.

**Amendment to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 25 of this paper.